Association in which, among other issues, it was also decided that the issue of setting up appropriate institutional arrangements in Ladakh, which would enable stepping up the pace of development and help to preserve the cultural heritage and meet the aspirations of the people of the Region, would also be considered. A series of official level meetings were held in this regard with representatives of the Region and officials of the State Government. A consensus was reached in the last meeting, held on 8-9 October, 1993 in the presence of the Union Home Minister, to set up an Autonomous Hill Council for Leh. Pursuant upon this, the State Government will take further steps to draw up a legislation for the purpose which would also have provision to enable similar arrangement for the Kargil district.

Setting up of joint Indo-Bangladesh Consultative Machinery

2819. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted the proposal for setting up of a Joint Indo-Bangladesh consultative machinery to constantly monitor and exchange details on insurgency, infiltration, smuggling and transborder crimes; and

(b) if so, whether Bangladesh has accepted the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) During the visit of Home Secretary to Bangladesh in October, 1993, both sides inter-alia, agreed that: (i) the Home Secretaries would meet once a year; (ii) a Joint Working Group (JWG) would be set up to meet twice a year to examine, in depth, all outstanding issues and recommend practical measures for resolving them; and (iii) Director General level meetings between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force may be held twice a year.

Robbery Cases in North Eastern Frontier and North Eastern Railways

2820. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of robbery cases have been taken place in the North eastern Frontier Railways and North Eastern Railways during the last two years;

(b) if so, what steps are proposes to be taken to check such robbery cases;

(c) whether the Railway Protection Forces are insufficient to protect the travelling passengers from such anti-social activities; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) train-wise/ Zone-wise information on robberies is not compiled by the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes on the railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the respective State Governments. It is also their duty to take effective steps to protect the travelling passengers from such anti-social activities.

Indian Citizenship to Chakma Refugees

2821. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are intending to grant Indian citizenship to Chakma refugees who are settled in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The issue of grant of citizenship to the Chakma refugees who came to India before 25 March 71 and are residing in Arunachal Pradesh has been under consideration. There is no such consideration for Chakma refugees living in other parts of the country.

Uprising of Tribals of N.E. States

2822. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons of uprising of tribals of Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur in the recent past against the Govt.;

(b) whether any attempt has been made by Govt. to cease the situations amicably; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Some of the tribal groups in the North Eastern States have been aspiring for more concessions, benefits and powers for their tribal units like autonomy, Union Territory Status, Statehood, etc. The goals in some cases include secessionism. Some of the organisations like NSCN, ULFA, Meitei Extremist Organisations etc., have taken recourse to violent and unconstitutional means to achieve their objectives.

(b) and (c) The Policy of the Government of India has been to encourage the extremists/insurgent groups to join the mainstream of the national life, provided they abjure violence and abide by the Constitution of India. In this context Accords have been entered into such as with Nagas, Mizos, TNV and Bodos.

Internal Security Problems

2823. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that internal security problems are more acute than the external security of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to increase budgetary plan for internal security schemes than the external defence expenditure of the country on account of our good neighbouring relations with foreign countries; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the positive, what steps are being taken to solve internal security problems of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Government is very much alive to the security problems facing the country within and without. It would, however, not be desirable from the national security point of view to discuss on the Floor of the House details relating to the budgetary position and expenditure etc. for the maintenance of internal and external security. Government remains committed to safeguarding the territorial integrity, sovereignty and unity of the country and towards that end all financial obligations shall be met.

Foreign funds for anti-India Activities

2824. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports from investigating agencies that foreign agencies like GTZ Indo-German development Cooperation, Danish International Development Swedish International Agency, Oxfam (India) Trust and Novib of Belgium are providing huge funds to Indian voluntary